

REMARKS

Claims 11-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Arras (U.S. Patent No. 5,323,453) in view of Charland (U.S. Patent No. 5,661,776). The rejection to claims 11-18 is respectfully traversed, and the rejection to claims 19 and 20 is moot in view of their cancellation.

Arras discloses an arrangement for feeding a subscriber's line of a public exchange with reduced line current upon the occurrence of a power failure. Specifically, in Arras, a line current is sent to the subscriber (see, for example, col. 5, line 55 - col. 6, line 8), and the current is limited by the circuit described in col. 6, lines 2-37. Operation parameters are then monitored in the telephone exchange module and compared with reference values. When the parameters are exceeded, the RP-state (reduced line current) is activated (col. 6, lines 38-47). Referring to Fig. 5a, ambient temperature of line board 2 in magazine 1 is monitored (e.g. the ambient temperature is sensed by a temperature sensor in the form of an oscillator 40, shown in Fig. 6). The supply of current to magazine 1 from the power network is also monitored, in order to indicate the occurrence of a possible power failure. Each line board 2 includes a local processor 47 which monitors all line circuits on the line board and searches the line circuits on the board and reports the status of the line circuits main control unit 3.

The claimed invention, on the other hand, is directed to activating (i.e. supplying) current lines limited to a maximum value, reducing (i.e. limiting) the feed current to a standard value, and repeating the method for additional users (see, for example, claim 1). The invention is also directed to disconnecting the user after a waiting time (see, for example, claim 13). There is no teaching or disclosure in Arras of reducing the feed current to a standard value or repeating the method for additional users. Rather, Arras discloses reduced line current upon the occurrence of a power failure. There is no disclosure of reduction to a standard value or of successively repeating the method for additional users. In the claimed invention, a reduced standard value is activated when monitored values are correct (i.e. error-free user line) and the subscriber is disconnected when a user continues to use the maximum value of the feed current after

expiration of the waiting time. Additionally, the claimed invention requires repeating the method for additional users, unlike Arras.

Charland, cited by the Examiner as disclosing a method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users, discloses a network termination unit for connection to a telephone line at a predetermined demarcation point for sequentially simulating a plurality of fault conditions to allow diagnostics to be performed. Charland fails to disclose activating (i.e. supplying) current lines limited to a maximum value, reducing (i.e. limiting) the feed current to a standard value, repeating the method for additional users, and disconnecting the user after a waiting time.

Since the recited method is not discussed by the applied art, claims 11-18 are patentable. In view of the foregoing, claims 11-18 are in condition for allowance. An indication of same is solicited.

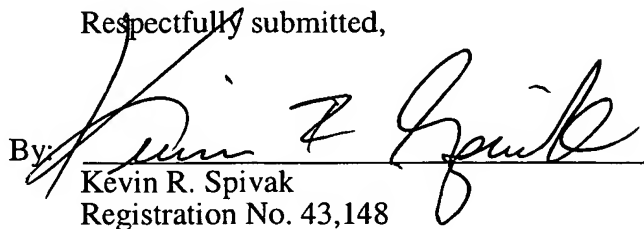
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 449122030500.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

For the convenience of the Examiner, the changes made are shown below with deleted text in strikethrough and added text in underline.

IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Amended) A method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users from one energy source, ~~the method comprising the steps of:~~

connecting a user one of the users to the energy source;

supplying an initial feed current limited to a maximum value to the user in the connection phase;

measuring the feed current that is supplied to the user;

limiting the feed current to a standard value, given an error-free user line and after a waiting time; and

successively repeating the ~~above steps~~ method for further additional users.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ disconnecting a user that continues to use the maximum value of the feed current after the expiration of the waiting time.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ allocating the maximum value of feed current after the expiration of the waiting time, wherein a current reserve is available.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ limiting the feed current of the user to the standard value after the waiting time.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ periodically checking a faulty network termination unit of a user with the maximum value of the feed current.